

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Presently Amended): An article subjected to dynamic loading which comprises:

(i) a polymer having a main polymer chain derived from: (i) at least about 30% by weight of a first monomer which introduces at least one of a secondary carbon and a tertiary carbon to the main polymer chain, and (ii) from 0 to about 70% by weight of at least one other monomer.

(ii) a salt of a strong base and a weak acid, the salt comprising a metal selected from Group I of the Periodic Table of Elements, and

(iii) an antioxidant,

wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate, sodium-stearate, a metal salt of carbonic acid, EDTA, phosphoric acid and mixtures thereof.

2. (Original): An article according to Claim 1 wherein the polymer is an ethylene-alpha-olefin-based elastomer.

3. (Original): An article according to Claim 1 wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of hindered phenols, diphenylamines, phenylene diamines and mixtures thereof.

4. Cancelled.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Original): An article according to Claim 1, wherein the salt is present in an amount in the range from about 0.5 to about 50 parts by weight.

7. (Original): An article according to Claim 6, wherein the salt is present in an amount in the range from about 1 to about 20 parts by weight.

8. (Original): An article according to Claim 1 further comprising a buffer, the buffer being a compound which can act as a proton sink.

9. (Original): An article according to Claim 1, further comprising a vulcanization system.

10. (Original): An article according to Claim 9, wherein the vulcanization system is selected from the group comprising sulfur, a sulfur donor cure system and a peroxide compound.

11. (Original): An article according to Claim 1 which is intended for use as a belt in the form of a power transmission belt selected from the group consisting of synchronous belts, V-belts, multi-V-ribbed belts and toothed belts.